

Message Text

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TAGS: WFP, AORG

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOGEL

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES MET VOGEL FEBRUARY 15 TO DISCUSS THE ATTAINABILITY OF THE 1979/1980 PLEDGE TARGET, DIFFICULTIES WITH PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. MRS. BITTERMANN, MS. SHEEHAN, MESSRS. BYRNES, CARROLL AND WOLF ALSO PARTICIPATED. ARTHUR MEAD FROM FAO WAS WITH VOGEL.

2. TARGET AND RESOURCES - VOGEL DEFENDED THE PROPOSED 1979/1980 TARGET OF \$950 MILLION AS JUSTIFIED AND NECESSARY. HE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH FAILURE TO REACH THE 1979/1980 TARGET AS WELL AS THE 1977/1978 TARGET
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WOULD FORCE THE PROGRAM TO ACT BACK ON ITS CURRENT ANNUAL COMMITMENT RATE (OF \$300 MILLION) THIS WOULD NOT DISCOURAGE HIM GREATLY. HE STRESSED THAT, DESPITE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, THE NEED FOR FOOD AID ESPECIALLY IN LDC/MSA COUNTRIES IS REAL. VOGEL BELIEVES SAUDI ARABIA WILL AT LEAST MAINTAIN ITS PLEDGE AT THE \$50 MILLION LEVEL. WHILE HOPEFUL THAT PERHAPS OTHER OPEC

COUNTRIES WILL CONTRIBUTE, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT ALL HAD EXPLANATIONS THAT MAY STILL OVERRIDE. (IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION VOGEL INDICATED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT

SAUDI ARABIA WILL NOT RESTRICT ITS CONTRIBUTION, I.E., TO FOOD PURCHASES ONLY.)

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION - MR. MAYNES LINKED OUR CONCERN OVER WFP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WITH OUR EFFORT THIS YEAR TO GIVE AN UPBEAT VIEW TO THE CONGRESS OF UN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND OUR DESIRE TO REDUCE UN PROGRAMS' VULNERABILITY. OTHERS PRESSED VOGEL ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF LOCAL STAFFING, FUNDING, AND COORDINATION THAT STRETCH OUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID, I.E., IN MALI. THEY ALSO STRESSED THAT WFP FIELD PERSONNEL AND THE UNDP RESREPS MUST INCREASE AND IMPROVE THEIR EFFORTS AND THAT THERE BE BETTER INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD. MS. SHEEHAN SUGGESTED THAT IN EMERGENCY FOOD AID MORE CARE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TYPE OF COMMODITIES OFFERED.

4. VOGEL NOTED SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES OF PROGRAMING FOOD AID, AS OPPOSED TO OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE, THE OPERATING PRINCIPLE OF WFP WHEREBY IMPLEMENTATION IS LEFT TO RECIPIENTS, AND THE FACT THAT PRIORITY RECIPIENTS ARE THE POOREST, LEAST DEVELOPED LDC'S/MSA'S. IN REGARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO RECENT IRAN FOOD SHIPMENT TO SENEGAL HE POINTED OUT THAT WFP ONLY LEARNED OF SHIPMENT INDIRECTLY, VIA SHIPPING MARKET, AND THAT SENEGAL HAD INTENTIONALLY KEPT IRANIAN ASSISTANCE SECRET.

5. PERSONNEL - MR. MAYNES NOTED THE RECENT RUNDOWN OF U.S. CITIZENS IN POLICY ROLES IN UN FOOD AGENCIES. HE NOTED VERY HIGH DEGREE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND PRESSURE. VOGEL, NOTING SMALL SIZE OF WFP STAFF, ESPECIALLY AT SENIOR LEVEL, WAS EXTREMELY NONCOMMITTAL. HE INDICATED (INDIRECTLY) THAT PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHIEF WOULD BE EITHER CASHIN OR DAVIS. HE INDICATED ALSO THAT D-1 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOB WOULD GO TO AN AMERICAN (UN-NAMED) INSIDE WFP.

6. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MR. MAYNES NOTED U.S. WOULD FIND BRAZIL'S FAO PERMREP BRITO COMPLETELY UNSUITABLE IF, AS RUMORED, BRITO IS IN LINE FOR WFP DEPUTY JOB. HE STRESSED U.S. WOULD SUPPORT LATINO CANDIDATE BUT WANTED TO SEE HIGH QUALITY CANDIDATE. WITHOUT CONFIRMING BRITO CHOICE, VOGEL CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THIS POSITION AND INDICATED U.S. DISSATISFACTION COUNTERED

BY OTHERS WHO SUPPORT BRITO.

7. AT WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON DEPTOFF (WOLF) SUGGESTED TO VOGEL THAT SECRETARIAT TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN FOSTERING CONSENSUS CANDIDATES FOR 1978 CFA BUREAU. HE MENTIONED INFORMALLY POSSIBILITY OF TRINIDAD REP TO CFA (GRAY) FOR CHAIRMAN AND AUSTRALIAN (KELLOWAY) AS FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN. VOGEL WAS PLEASED TO HAVE SUGGESTIONS AND SAID HE FELT SECRETARIAT SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE PEACEFUL TRANSITION (VERSUS LAST YEAR'S CONTROVERSY). HE MENTIONED GAMO-KUBA (CONGO), WHO HAD INSIDE TRACK LAST YEAR, ALSO NO LONGER IN ROME (FODAG PLEASE CONFIRM).

8. VOGEL, NOTING EXTREME TIME PRESSURE ON SECRETARIAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO REITERATED COMMENTS VIS-A-VIS DESIRABILITY OF RESERVING ONE OF FUTURE BIENNIAL MEETINGS FOR PROJECTS ONLY. HE STATED THAT IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ONE OF HIS HIGHEST PRIORITIES AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF USING NEW SMALL COMPUTERS VERSUS CENTRAL FAO COMPUTER.

9. VOGEL'S TV APPEARANCE WAS DISAPPOINTING IN THAT HE APPEARED LAST ON PROGRAM, AND AT A TIME WHEN ONLY A FEW MINUTES REMAINED. PROGRAM'S UN/FAO RELATIONSHIP, PURPOSES AND GENERAL AIMS WERE DEFINED BRIEFLY BUT DIALOGUE BEYOND THAT WAS LIMITED. VANCE

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